



# Article of the Month

October 2017

## **How well do we currently care for our dying patients in acute hospitals: the views of the bereaved relatives?**

Mayland CR, Mulholland H, Gambles M, et al

BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care 2017;7:316-325.

This paper presents the results of a survey of bereaved relatives of patients who died in hospitals. Quite a few carers were not contacted for various sensible reasons. Of those who responded only 4% said that staff did not do enough to control the patient's pain. Relatives' ratings of communication were not so high. This paper might help those of us involved in training hospital staff.

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## **Improving malodour management in advanced cancer: a 10-year retrospective study of topical, oral and maintenance metronidazole**

George R, Prasoona TS, Kandasamy R, et al

BMJ Supportive & Palliative Care 2017;7:286-291.

To explore the relative effectiveness of topical or oral metronidazole used for malodour in necrotic cancers and to propose a protocol for metronidazole usage in managing malodour

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## **Does the EQ-5D capture the concerns measured by the Palliative care Outcome Scale? Mapping the Palliative care Outcome Scale onto the EQ-5D using statistical methods**

Mendwas D Dzingina<sup>1</sup>, Paul McCrone<sup>2</sup>, Irene J Higginson<sup>1</sup>

Palliative Medicine, vol. 31, 8: pp. 716-725

It is helpful when academics can guide us as to the best quality of life or health economic measures for studies. The EQ-5D may not be the best tool for measuring economic outcomes in palliative care research. The author's question how appropriate economic analysis is in palliative care is and argue that further research is needed in this area.

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*Prepared by Paul Perkins, on behalf of the APM Science Committee*